

Common Name/Scientific name: Australian Wood Duck / *Chenonetta jubata*

Also known as the Maned Duck or the Maned Goose

The Australian Wood Duck is more often seen around lakes and ponds in built up areas on the Sunshine Coast than it is seen in bushland areas. It is a species of wild duck that has adapted quite well to living among humans. At the gardens we see them occasionally feeding on the lawn areas, but rarely swimming in the lagoon.



Description: The Australian Wood Duck is a medium-sized 'goose-like' duck with a dark brown head and a pale grey body with two black stripes along the back. Males have the darker head and a small dark mane, with a speckled brown-grey breast and a black lower belly and undertail. The females have a paler head with two white stripes, above and below the eye, a speckled breast and flanks, with a white lower belly and undertail. In flight, the wings are pale grey above, contrasting with black wingtips, and have a noticeable white bar on the underside (the secondaries).

Where seen in the gardens: Occasionally on the lawn areas adjacent to the lagoon and in lagoon shallow water, usually only in deeper water on the lagoon when threatened.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: The Australian Wood Duck eats grasses, clover and other herbs, and occasionally, insects. It is rarely seen on open water, preferring to forage in grasslands or by dabbling in shallow water.

Breeding and Nesting: The Australian Wood Duck forms monogamous breeding pairs that stay together year round. It nests in tree holes, above or near water, often re-using the same site. Both parents feed the young and young birds remain with them up to a month after fledging.

Similar Species in the gardens: The Australasian Grebe and the Pacific Black Duck are water bird species seen regularly in gardens. See the 'Birds Seen Regularly' page for more information about these.